Increase in Defence Budget

1314. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made heavy defence allocations in the current year's Budget as compared to the last three years' Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such a massive increase?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In the General Budget 2004-2005, the allocation for Defence Services has been kept at Rs. 77000 crores. The provision made in the budget for Defence expenditure during the last three years has been as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
2001-2002	62000.00	57000.00	54265.73
2002-2003	65000.00	56000.00	55661.83
2003-2004	65300.00	60300.00	60065.80 (P)

(P) Provisional

(c) The provision for the defence expenditure in Budget Estimates 2004-2005 has been made to meet the obligatory charges, essential maintenance requirement, committed liabilities and a few prioritised new schemes.

Defence Secretary talks between India and Pakistan

1315. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan had held Defence Secretary level talks in the month of August focusing on proposals of military de-escalation on Siachen glacier;

(b) if so, whether both India and Pakistan exchanged new proposals;